

KEHOE'S CORNER

News from the office of Senator Christine Kehoe



Capitol Office

State Capitol
Room 3086
Sacramento CA 95814
916/651-4039

San Diego Office

2445 5th Avenue,
Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92101
619/645-3133

Website:
www.sen.ca.gov/kehoe

Committees

Local Government, Chair
Budget and Fiscal Review
Energy, Utilities
and Communications

Natural Resources & Water
Transportation & Housing
Joint Committee on
Homeland Security and
Emergency Services, Chair

Kehoe Announces \$7 Million Bird Flu Preparedness Effort

The California Department of Health Services (DHS) anticipates that the bird flu will arrive in our state before the end of this year, which could lead to a major flu outbreak in California.

As Chair of the Joint Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security, I introduced a bill to appropriate \$7,073,000 in state funds to improve state and local flu-related preparations and services. The bill, SB 409, will assist state agencies and local communities in preparing for potential widespread human influenza. This measure will help DHS and the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) by providing funding for:

- **Anti-Virals for Flu:** \$536,000 to oversee the management of existing and new antiviral vaccines and medical supplies that the State will need to obtain and distribute during a widespread flu outbreak as well as to purchase approximately 70,500 doses of vaccine.
- **Laboratory Infrastructure:** \$415,000 to implement new tests to control both old and new infectious diseases and purchase new equipment needed to allow the testing of potentially dangerous materials in order to avoid lab contamination.
- **Local Public Health Preparedness:** Provides \$4.5 million to support local health departments' pandemic flu planning, prevention and response efforts.
- **Protective Equipment:** \$1.6 million to purchase and provide personal protective equipment and related training for ambulance personnel in California.

My bill is supported by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has set aside funding in his budget proposal for this effort. SB 409 passed the Senate is now on the Assembly Floor. If you are interested in learning more about this bill, visit my web site and select the link to "Legislation" at www.senate.ca.gov/kehoe.

Leading Effort to Better Protect San Diego from Terrorism

Recently, the US Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) determined that San Diego and Sacramento are ineligible for Urban Area Security Initiative grants, which provide critical anti-terrorism funding. Prior to this most recent decision, both cities have been eligible for this funding. The department's assessment that San Diego and Sacramento are not at high risk of a terrorist attack means that our cities are not eligible for their fair share of \$765 million in federal anti-terrorism funds.

Because of San Diego's international border, major port, numerous military bases, and the San Onofre power plant, our region is *especially* at risk and should be eligible for necessary anti-terrorist funding.

Because of this, I am leading a bipartisan effort urging the US Department of Homeland Security to reassess our eligibility to ensure that we receive necessary funding for anti-terrorism training, equipment, and security exercises.

This resolution, SJR 29, was passed unanimously by the Senate Government Organization Committee on April 4 and has been sent to the Senate floor. To read more, please visit the "Legislation" section of my web site at www.senate.ca.gov/kehoe.

What's Inside:

SANDAG Report	2
Humane Society	2
Woman of the Year	3
Community Events	4
State Web Sites	4

Is SANDAG Working for San Diego?

In order to streamline San Diego's regional government, I authored measures in 2003 to combine our transit agencies and improve the efficiency of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), our region's transportation and planning agency.

*To read the entire
report on SANDAG*

go to:

www.lao.ca.gov

As a part of ongoing efforts to improve San Diego's government, the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) has recently completed a comprehensive report on how SANDAG is doing. Overall, SANDAG received a favorable grade, but the report points to areas that have room for improvement. Highlights of the report include:

- The San Diego region faces significant housing affordability concerns and environmental-protection challenges
- SANDAG works "reasonably well" at identifying and studying regional concerns
- Positive marks for SANDAG's role of providing a forum for decision makers to discuss solutions to regional problems
- Accountability to San Diego residents is "indirect and limited" and can be improved

I am pleased with the report's overall assessment of SANDAG's efficiency and effectiveness, and also recognize the need to address these shortcomings. The report will be a valuable aid to moving toward more accountable regional government. To read the entire report, go to the LAO's web site at www.lao.ca.gov.

Taking Care of San Diego's Animals The San Diego Humane Society & SPCA



Senator Kehoe recently toured the San Diego Humane Society & SPCA's new facility in Mission Valley. SDHS & SPCA shared their two-fold mission: 1) the intake and care of unwanted animals and 2) the prevention of cruelty to animals.

From left to right: 39th District Representative Jason Weisz, Board Member Georgia Griffiths, Senator Kehoe, and SDHS & SPCA President Dr. Mark Goldstein.

To learn more about this organization and programs offered, or to adopt a new pet visit www.sdhumane.org.

Deborah Szekely Honored as 39th District's "Woman of the Year"

In March, San Diegan Deborah Szekely traveled with me to Sacramento to be honored as my 39th Senate District "Woman of the Year." The annual Woman of the Year commemoration recognizes exemplary California women from each of the state's 40 Senate Districts.

While Deborah Szekely may be best known for having founded the world class Rancho La Puerta and Golden Door Spa, most recently she has been working to establish the New Americans Immigration and Learning Center. Mrs. Szekely has spent decades working to better the lives of San Diegans, as well as people from all over the world.

Her other accomplishments include founding a national leadership training

program for CEOs of nonprofits, serving as president of the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), an independent agency of the United States government created by Congress to support self-help efforts of the poor throughout Latin American and the Caribbean, and founding COMBO, the Combined Arts and Education Council of San Diego County, which has raised over \$25 million to support 21 cultural organizations.

In addition to Mrs. Szekely's numerous community volunteer activities, at 84 she is an avid gardener and devoted mother to Sarah and Alex, and grandmother to Jacob, Joshua and Emily. I am pleased to recognize her extensive volunteer efforts and honor her as the 39th District 2006 Woman of the Year.

"Mrs. Szekely has spent decades working to better the lives of San Diegans"



Senator Kehoe and Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata present Deborah Szekely with a plaque on the Senate floor in Sacramento, recognizing her as the 39th District's 2006 Woman of the Year

Contact Information

Capitol Office

State Capitol
Room 3086
Sacramento CA 95814
916/651-4039

San Diego Office

2445 5th Avenue,
Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92101
619/645-3133

Website

www.senate.ca.gov/Kehoe

Committee Assignments

- Local Government, Chair
- Budget and Fiscal Review
- Energy, Utilities
and Communications
- Natural Resources & Water
- Transportation & Housing
- Joint Committee on
Homeland Security
and Emergency
Services, Chair

Events in the 39th District

There are several community events coming up this Spring in the 39th District. Join me at these upcoming community fairs:

- Linda Vista Multicultural Fair & Parade
Saturday April 22, 10am-6pm
- EarthFair 2006 in Balboa Park
Sunday April 23, 10am-5pm
- Fiesta de los Peñasquitos, Rancho Peñasquitos Street Fair
Sunday May 7, 10am-6pm
- North Park Festival of the Arts
Sunday May 21, 10am-6pm

For more information about these community celebrations, call my office at (619) 645-3133.



**Senator
Kehoe joins
constituents
and CHP
Officers at a
community
event**

Getting in Touch with State Agencies

Want to make an appointment at the Department of Motor Vehicles or find information about a freeway construction project? Many state departments offer useful information on their web sites.

- Department of Motor Vehicles – Make an appointment, renew your driver's license, or register your vehicle online. www.dmv.ca.gov
- Department of Transportation – Search for traffic information for local freeways, including lane closures and construction projects. www.caltrans.ca.gov
- Department of Consumer Affairs – View consumer alerts, link to the National Do-Not-Call Registry, or search for information about state-licensed professions from auto repair to contractors to doctors. www.dca.ca.gov
- Department of Aging – Find information about Medi-Cal and Medicare Part D, or get in touch with the Long Term Care ombudsman. www.aging.ca.gov

For a comprehensive list of state agency web sites, visit www.ca.gov.